

Here's one for you!

Forwarded message:

> > > I work with children whose performance and behaviour is affected by
> > > sensitivity/intolerance to foods and other environmental factors. We
> > > were wondering if people working with animals run across individuals
> > > within species who exhibit idiosyncratic changes in mood or behaviour
> > > when exposed to foods or other environmental factors they are
> > > sensitive to. I am especially looking for anecdotes about
> > > individual animals whose behaviour is affected by idiosyncratic food
> > > intolerances, or sensitivity to specific substances in their
> > > environment. Would any of the animals you have worked with shown such
> > > signs, and would you have any stories?

> > > Chris Brown

> Chris, I work with reptiles. Typically, all of them are sensitive to
> aromatic chemicals. At Zoo Atlanta in the late 60's [then known as
> Atlanta Zoo], we lost 50% of our reptile collection to particle board when
> it got wet and aroused formaldehyde fumes. The only reason 100% did not
> die is that the problem was discovered, and the animals were injected with
> an antihistamine. Naturally, they were also removed from their particle
> board caging. the entire reptile house had to be refitted with new,
> fiberglass cages - all 100 exhibits.

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> Additionally, reptiles are highly sensitive to pine bark and cedar bark
> because of the aromatics given off from these woods. In other words, you
> could also induce chemical pneumonia [for that is what they die of from
> aromatics] with ladies' perfume if they had to breathe it 24 hours a day
> for approximately a week.

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> Hope this helped.

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> Sue Barnard, Lead Keeper
> Zoo Atlanta